

Interview with Samuel Polite, St. Helena Island, South Carolina (Gullah), June 27, 1932

AFS t25,656B

Interview with Samuel Polite, St. Helena Island, South Carolina (Gullah), June 27, 1932

Mr. Samuel Polite: I come to the manure. I ah fit seven load of ??? back in the barn. Then I get three cord of [mashed corn (?)]. Then I fit a load of [dry corn (?)] on them again. Some of [dry corn (?)] on them again. Then I fit about [*loud distortion*] [eight loads of (?)] ??? broadcast ??? from ??? from ??? mud. And I keep on with that, and keep on with that until you see how mine shine there now. I keep on with that and, when this wind done and this rain done with that manure. I just ??? something and broadcast. I sow, sow mine this way, you know. I sow one corner that way and I'll sow one this way. And when I went plant the corn, I drop the corn right in there and took that cultivator and put right on, you know. After them put right on with that cultivator, then I hauled the manure and broadcast them in there. And then let out corn come up through that manure. You see? And as long as that corn coming up, as long as that manure will be on the corn root, the corn root can't come out of, over on it. And that manure will stay on that corn roots there and we would see crops. But guano, I wouldn't be on ten cents got all the bags they can bring to me. And she wanted to [smooth (?)] that manure you would [say (?)], that manure you haul you from there and carry me you trust my, [hide your (?)] and chop down in there, chop down in the age of that manure ??? manure. She done manure ??? .

Dr. Lorenzo Turner: What did you do to ??? after ??? ?

Mr. Samuel Polite: I took my plow and went in there. Now I show her I don't choke.

Unidentified Woman: Choking.

Mr. Samuel Polite: Hmm? I throw it out, sow one furrow that way and I sow one this way. [Crops make (?)] good now. Now that, is there a row there or a plantation? Now I wanted to plant the corn. I come there and I drop the corn [*disc scratch*] [seed (?)]. [*knocking*] I go on. See, I done that way. Then I done that row. I turn the [sweepers (?)] right in that row, with the cultivator now, took up the back teeth and led these two front teeth go this way. And them two front teeth go that way. And cover up that corn from the [sweepers (?)]. Then when I done cover that corn I load up the [shaft (?)], you know. And I get my fork and my ??? [bag (?)] for my manure ??? in that thing. And then that corn come out there, and that corn come up, it, it got to come through that manure and it, and that manure it steady, it steady lay on that corn [and weeds (?)]. And the more the corn grow the blacker it gets.

Dr. Lorenzo Turner: What was that [plant (??)]?

Mr. Samuel Polite: Hmm?

Dr. Lorenzo Turner: What did you [plant (??)]?

Mr. Samuel Polite: Well, ah the leaf will fall off the tree, you know. And the tree—

Dr. Lorenzo Turner: What kind? What kind of tree was it?

Mr. Samuel Polite: Pine tree. Oak tree. Gum tree. Any kind of tree that had been in the woods, you know. We raked that same stuff. That bring your house. That make me a man. And slave [*disc scratch*] and slave and sla, and sla make me work, make me work your a man.

END OF SIDE B